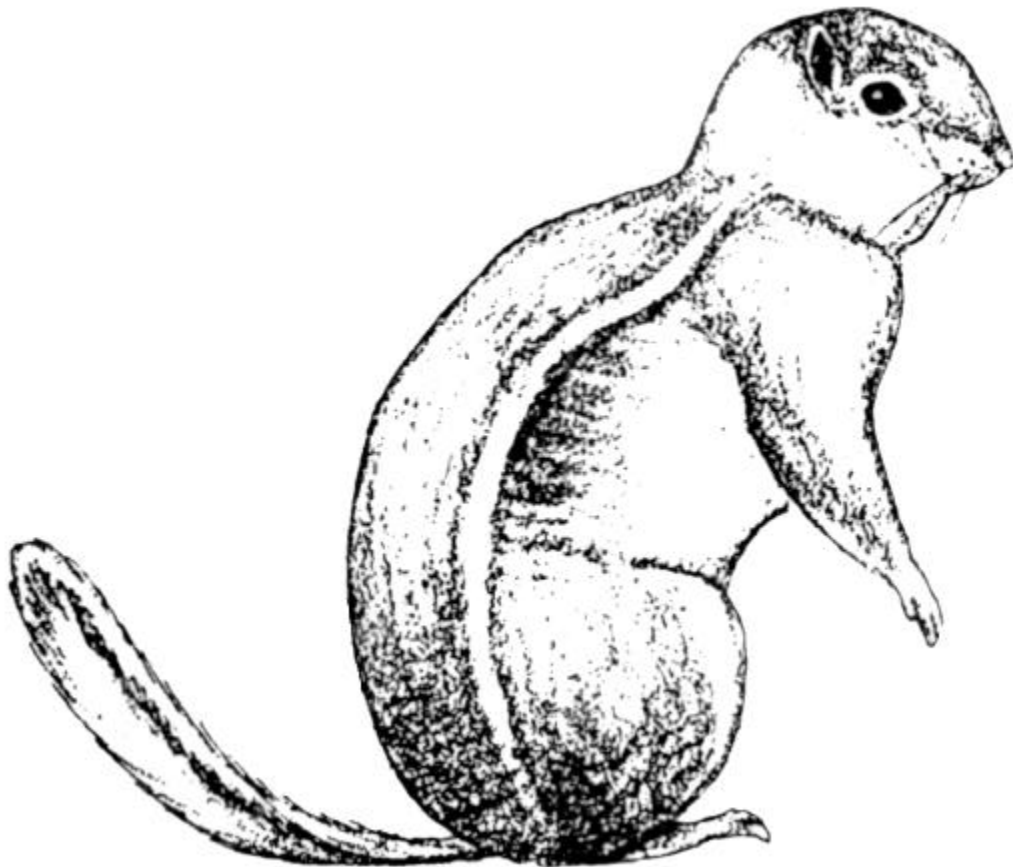


Endangered Species of California's Great Valley



A coloring book from
the California Department of Fish and Game

San Joaquin antelope-squirrel

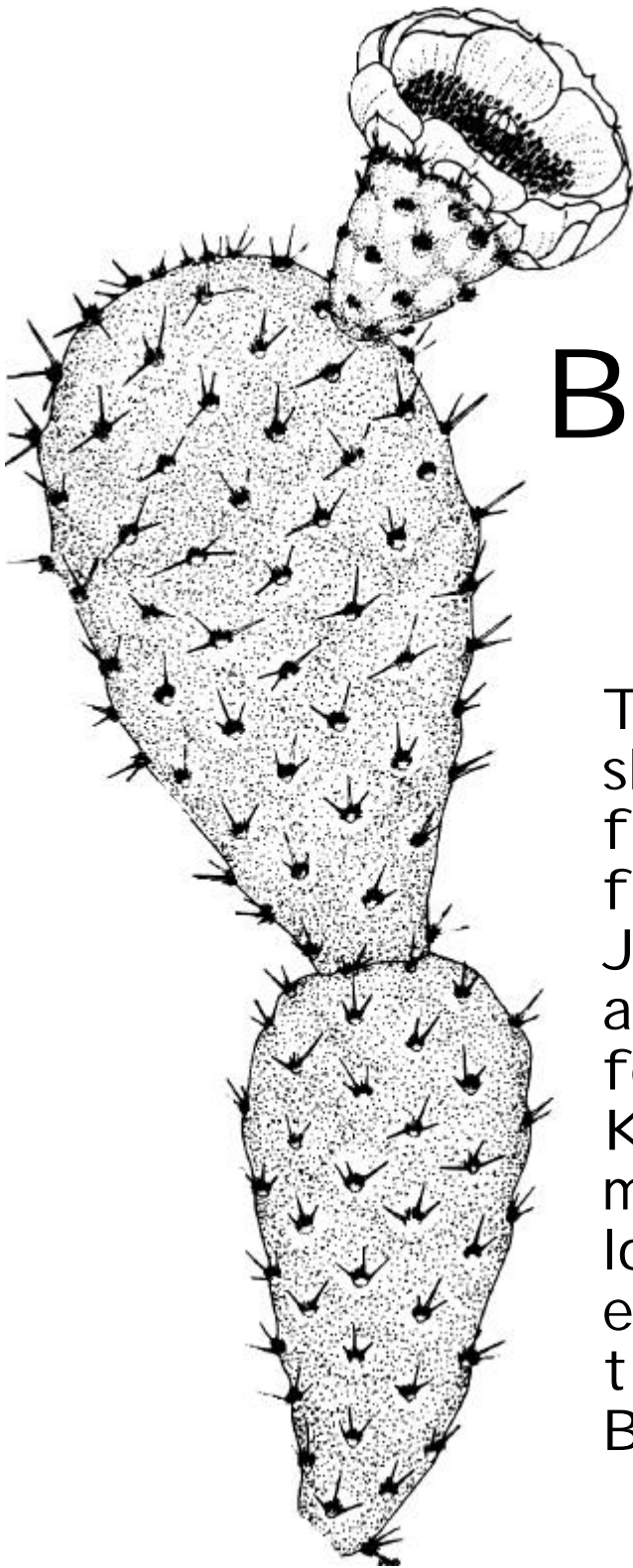


This squirrel burrows underground and eats grasses, seeds, and insects. It can be found only along the western edge of the San Joaquin Valley, mostly in Kern County, where it lives in grassland and alkali scrub.

Blunt-nosed leopard lizard



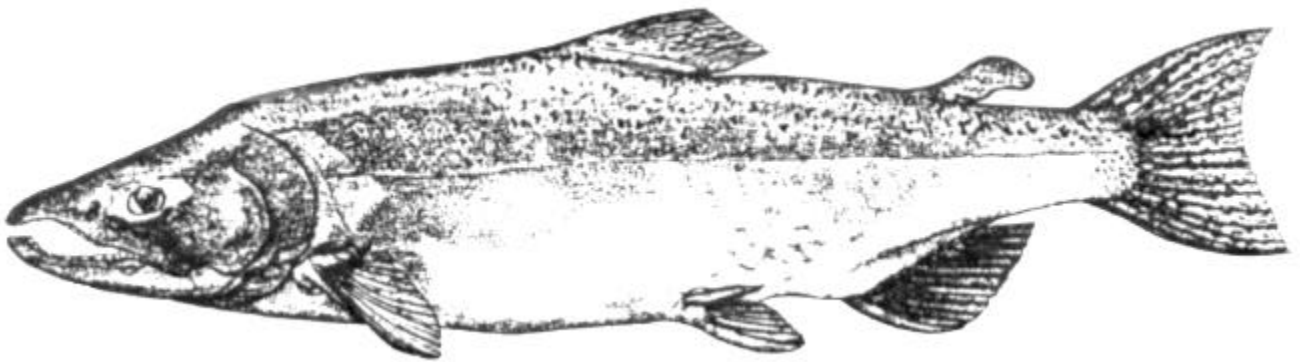
This lizard, less than 5 inches long, lives in alkali and desert scrub of the San Joaquin Valley. Its leopard-like spots get lighter in color when it's hot and darker when it's cool. This neat trick helps it to control its body temperature better than other cold-blooded animals. That allows it to remain active during hot days and to survive for a long time without drinking water.



Bakersfield cactus

This cactus has large, showy purple-red flowers that bloom from March through June. It grows on sandy areas in the valley and foothill grasslands of Kern County. Before most of its habitat was lost, it once formed extensive colonies in the area around Bakersfield.

Sacramento River spring-run chinook salmon



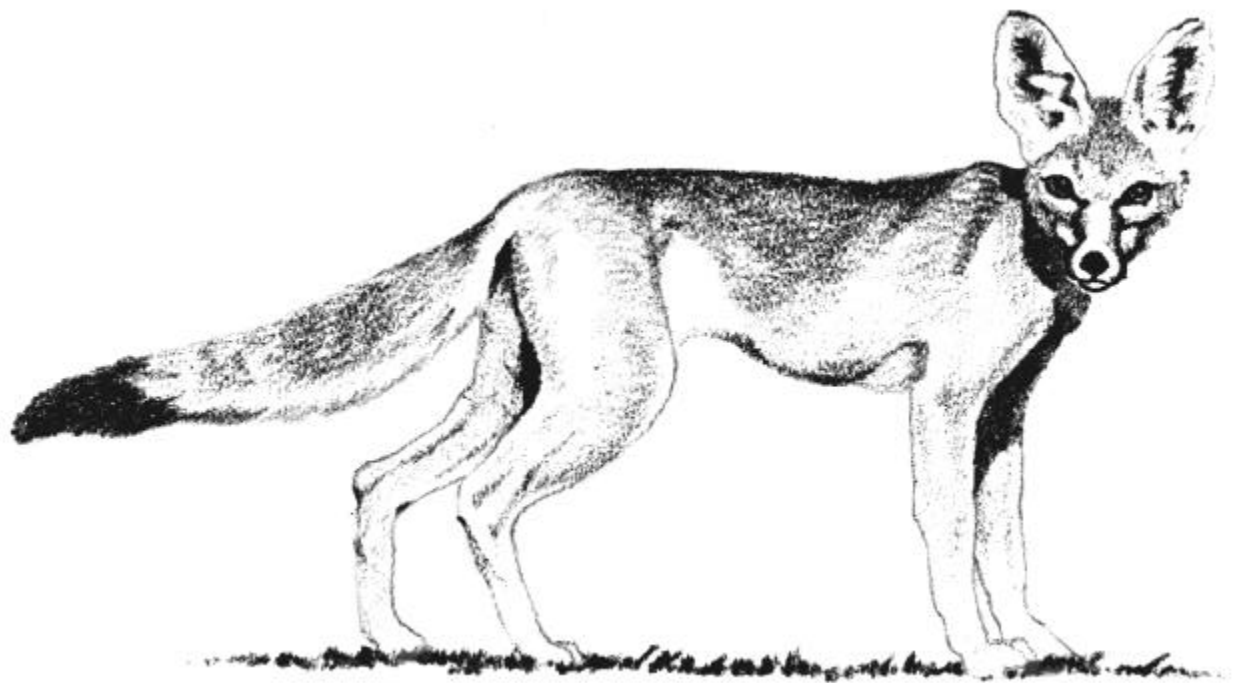
This fish spends most of its four-year life in the open ocean. It migrates up the Sacramento River during the springtime to lay eggs in the cold, fast-moving creeks of Butte and Tehama Counties. It can grow up to 3 feet long and weigh almost 30 pounds.

Western yellow- billed cuckoo



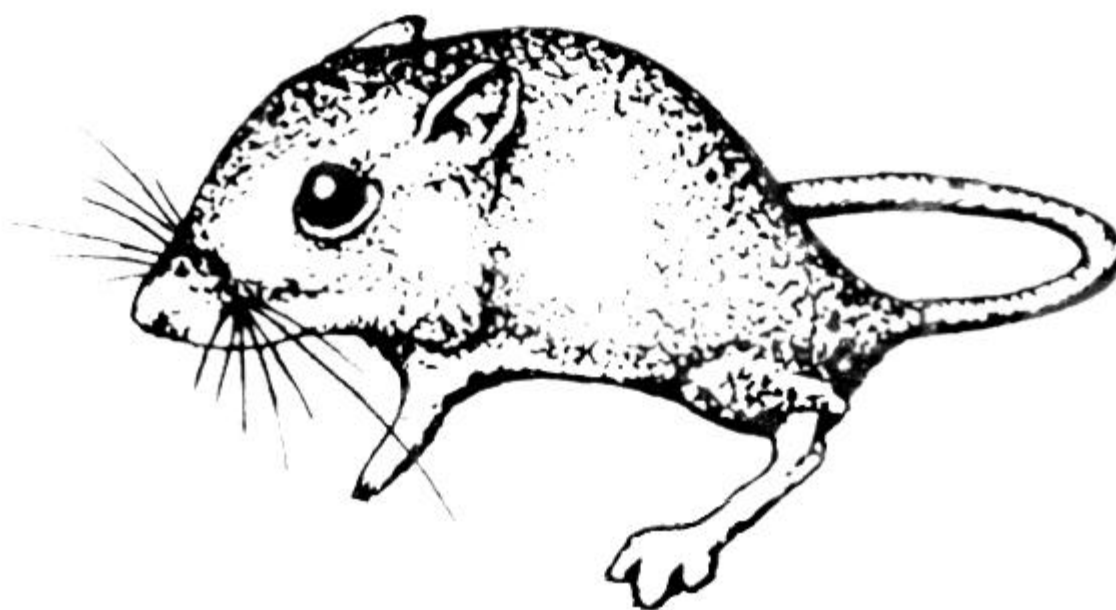
Kook-koo! This jay-sized bird was named after its unique call. It lives in forests along a few streams and rivers of the Sacramento Valley and southern California. During the winter, it migrates to South America.

San Joaquin kit fox

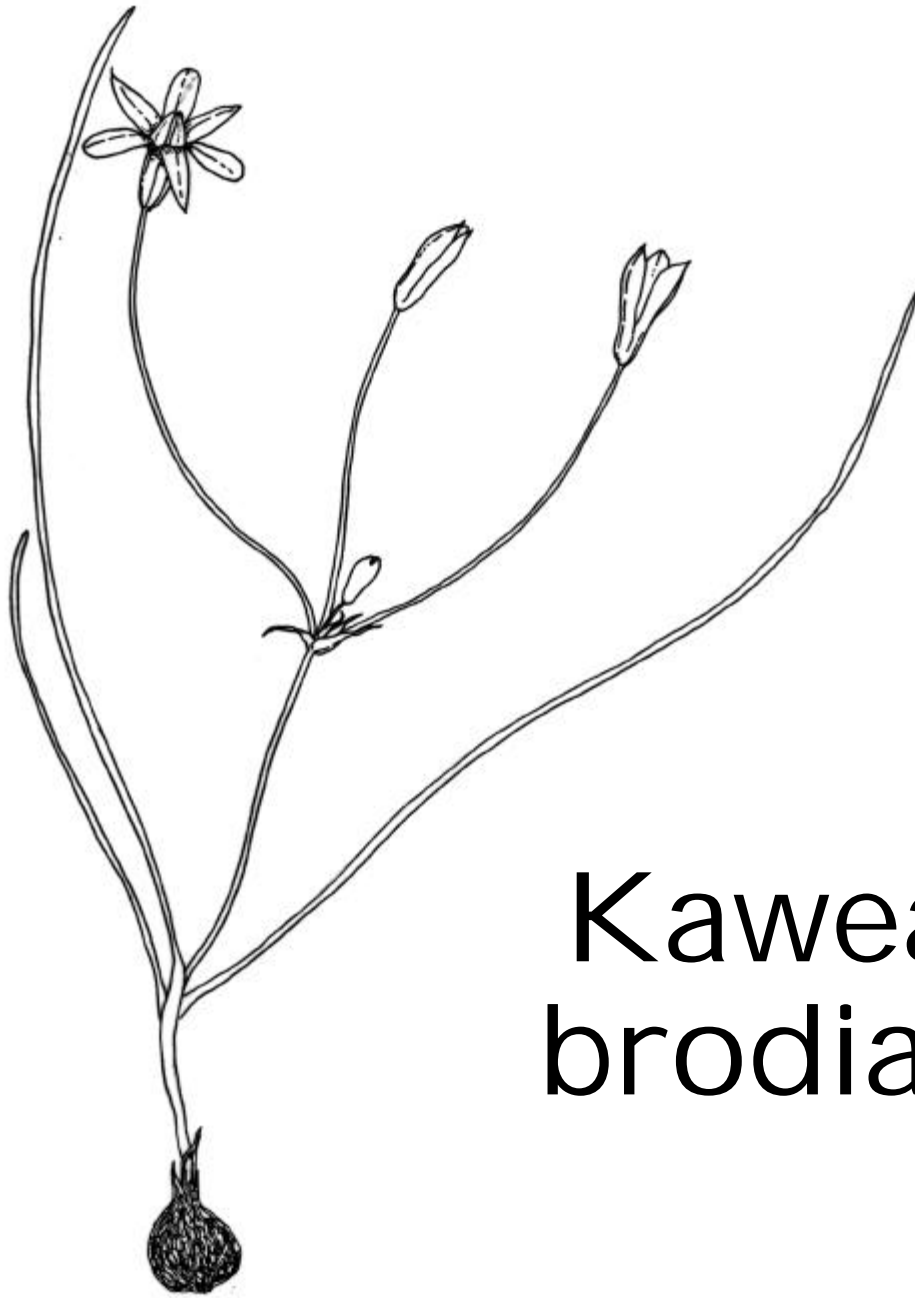


The smallest fox in North America, this kit fox is about the size of an average housecat. Its large ears help it stay cool during the summer heat and it can go without drinking for a long time. It eats small mammals, insects, and grasses and lives along the edges and foothills of the San Joaquin Valley

Fresno kangaroo-rat



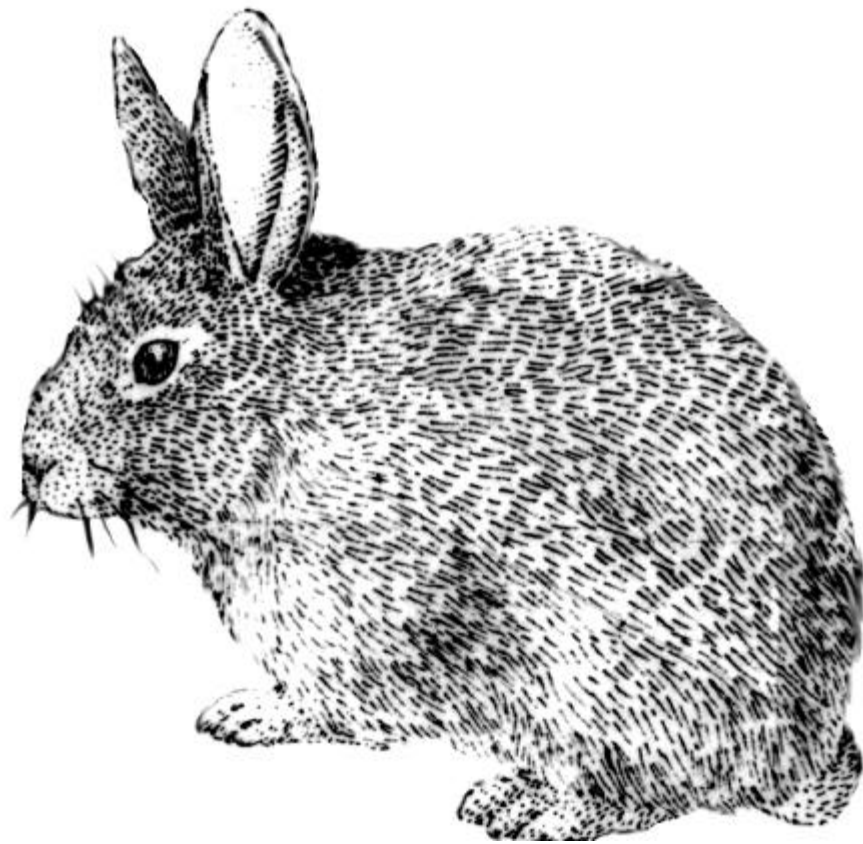
This mouse-sized rodent has a long tail and long hind legs for hopping like a kangaroo. It seldom drinks water and lives in underground burrows. It can be found only in Fresno County, living in alkali scrub and grassland. It eats mostly seeds and it was thought to be extinct in the early 1900's.



Kaweah brodiaea

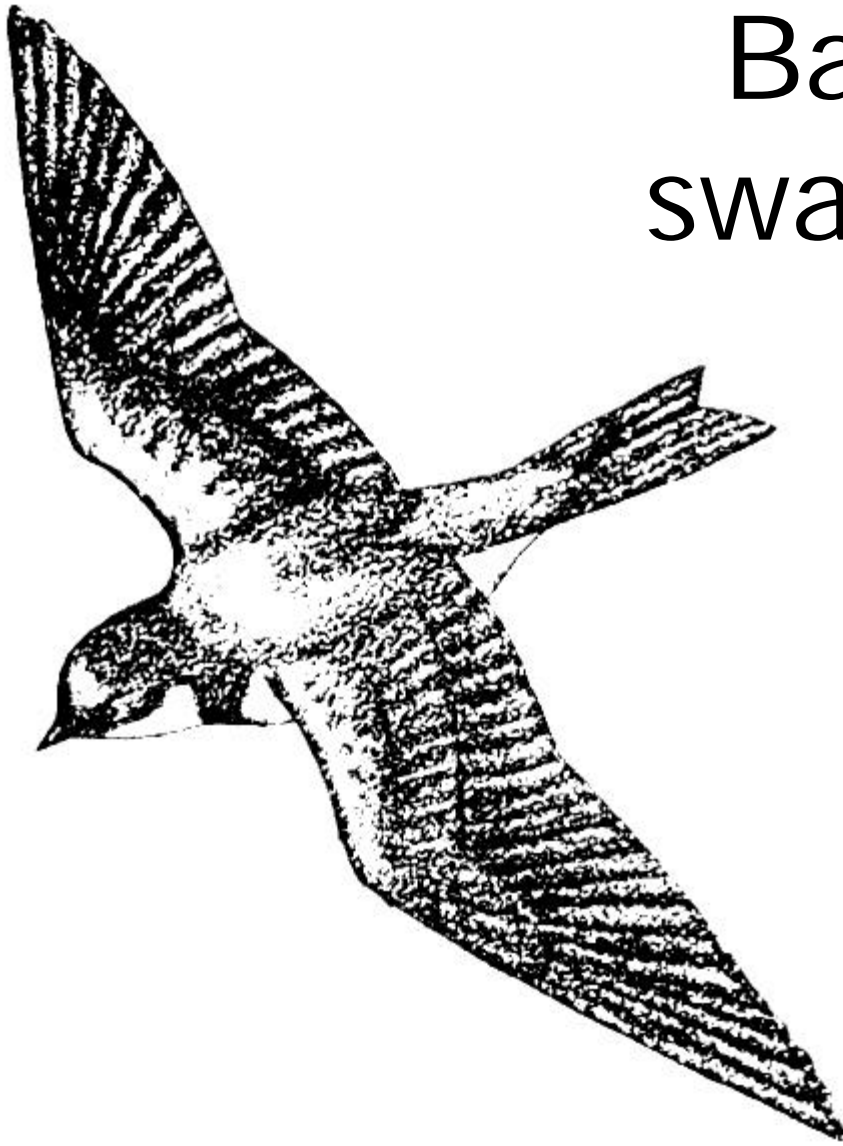
This plant is a member of the lily family and lives only in Tulare County, where it occurs in less than 25 locations. It's rose-purple to pink flowers cover large areas within the blue oak woodlands during May and June.

Riparian brush rabbit



This secretive rabbit lives in dense brush along the rivers of San Joaquin County. During floods, this rabbit can climb trees for safety. It eats grasses and leaves of other plants. In the 1970s, less than 20 rabbits were alive after loss of streamside habitat.

Bank swallow



This tiny bird, only 5 inches long, is the smallest swallow in North America. Despite its size, it still can migrate every year to South America for the winter. During the spring and summer, this swallow nests in sandy riverbanks along the upper Sacramento River. It catches insects in mid-air for food.